

Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**



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Foreword

As the Community Planning Aberdeen Board, we are clear that Aberdeen stands at a pivotal moment. Over the past decade, our city has achieved much, yet too many people continue to experience poorer outcomes and limited opportunities. Inequalities in health, education, income and wellbeing persist across our communities, and these differences shape life chances in ways that are neither fair nor inevitable.

This Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for 2026–2036 sets out our collective commitment to change that trajectory. It is not simply a statutory document; it is Aberdeen’s shared plan for improvement, owned by all Community Planning partners and delivered alongside communities, businesses and the third sector. It reflects our shared understanding that improving outcomes cannot be achieved through service responses alone. If we are to make lasting progress over the next decade, prevention, population health and the wider social determinants of wellbeing must be at the centre of how we work together.

At the heart of the Plan are five Ten Year Outcomes, each supported by system changes designed to move away from fragmented, reactive responses and towards earlier intervention, integrated pathways and sustained improvement. These system changes focus on the social, economic and physical conditions that shape people’s lives and life chances.

The Plan is grounded in evidence and lived experience. It draws on Aberdeen’s Population Needs Assessment and on extensive engagement through *Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future*, where residents, including children and young people, shared what matters most to them. These insights have directly shaped the priorities and outcomes set out in the Plan. Communities are at the heart of the Plan, as partners in shaping, delivering and reviewing change.

A core principle of this Plan is proportionate universalism. We are committed to providing strong universal services for everyone in Aberdeen, while ensuring that additional and targeted support is directed to those who need it most. By improving outcomes across the city, while improving them fastest for those experiencing the greatest disadvantage, we aim to reduce inequality and create a fairer Aberdeen where “everyone can thrive, regardless of background or circumstance.”

Delivering this Plan will require shared leadership, shared accountability and sustained collaboration across all partners. Progress will be measured by the difference made to people’s lives, through reduced poverty and harm, improved health and wellbeing, connected communities.

This Local Outcome Improvement Plan sets our direction for the next decade. It provides the framework through which Community Planning Aberdeen will work collectively with partners and communities to deliver lasting, positive change for the people of Aberdeen.

Introduction

What is the Local Outcome Improvement Plan?

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan sets out Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnerships vision for Aberdeen 2036; the outcomes we want to achieve for supporting all people in Aberdeen; and outlines the changes we will make collectively with people, communities and private sector in Aberdeen over the next 10 years to reach those outcomes and prevent further inequalities in the city. This is our second Local outcome Improvement Plan, our first was approved in 2016. The Plan is organised into three sections so you can see the current situation, what we're focusing on and how we'll make a difference. Here's what you'll find inside:

The current situation in Aberdeen: This section shares some important facts and figures about Aberdeen, with a focus on where inequality is experienced across the City. It shares the real stories of what life is like for people in Aberdeen at present and also includes what our communities, children and young people have told us what matters most to them and areas for improvement they want to be focused on over the next ten years.

Aberdeen 2036 - Our vision and Ten Year Outcomes, what we aim to achieve: This section explains the vision we want to achieve for Aberdeen 2036, as well as the 5 main outcomes Community Planning Aberdeen is focused on reaching. These outcomes have been identified based on the data and community insights detailed in the section above. In this section we describe what changes will be made to achieve them. It also expresses how Aberdeen 2036 could be.

How We'll Make It Happen: The final section explains the partnerships structure for delivering the Plan and cross cutting enablers in place to support each outcome.

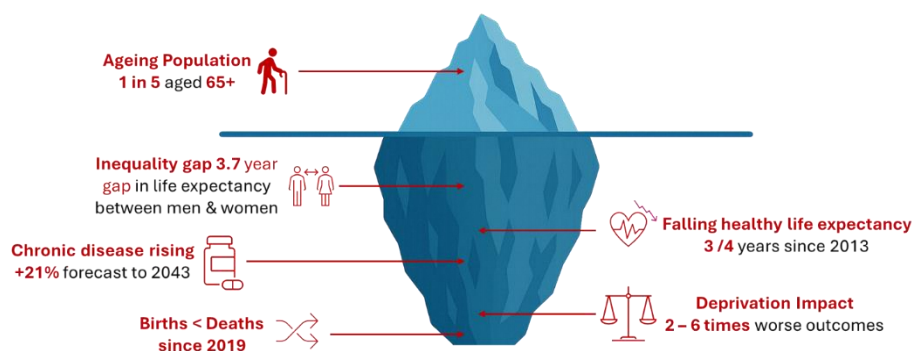


The Current Situation in Aberdeen

The People and Place of Aberdeen

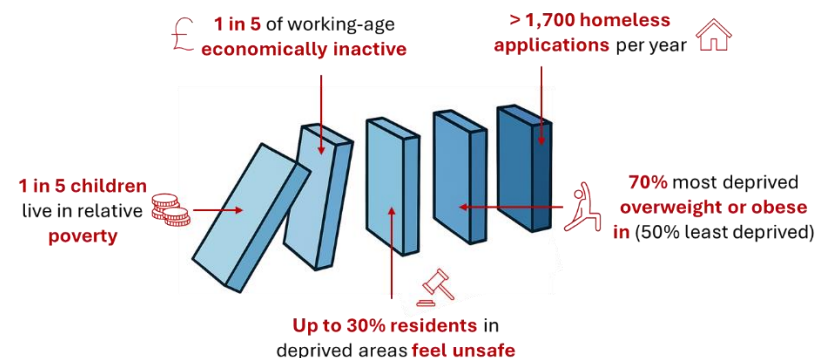
Health & Wellbeing

- Aberdeen's population is growing older, more diverse and more unequal, with one in five people now aged over 65 and a 3.7 year age gap in life expectancy between men and women.
- While life expectancy is relatively high, healthy life expectancy is falling, meaning more years lived with ill health. Between 2013-15 and 2021-23, it has fallen by 3.3 years for males and 3.9 years for females.
- The annual chronic disease burden is forecast to increase 21% by 2043.
- Preventable diseases and inequalities continue to drive poor outcomes, particularly in deprived communities.



Inequity and the Wider Determinants of Health

- There are many ways in which outcomes, overall, for the people of Aberdeen have improved. However, there are very significant differences across the city, with people living in more deprived areas experiencing worse outcomes on average.
- There are wide differences in rates of child poverty. 1 in 6 areas in the city have child poverty rates higher than 25%, whilst others have almost none.
- Students in the least deprived 20 percent of areas are most likely to leave school with higher levels of qualification.
- Higher rates of obesity and lower participation in physical activity are seen in more deprived areas.
- Fuel poverty is linked to a higher proportion of poor-quality housing, especially in private rentals.
- There are higher rates of crime, in most deprived areas, and people are more likely to report feeling unsafe, especially after dark.
- These differences can lead to inequity in health and wellbeing across many factors including childhood development, mental health and chronic disease.



The State of the State

Aberdeen shares the same challenges as the rest of Scotland, but also has its own unique local circumstances.

- The global economy is changing with increasing digitisation and use of Artificial Intelligence. Aberdeen's economy and jobs market is also in transition from oil and gas industries.
- Inequalities persist across the city, with many experiencing poor outcomes that could be prevented by addressing fundamental causes and early intervention and support.
- Annual funding gaps across the public sector will continue to be the reality, driving the need for alternative ways to support those most in need, whilst delivering statutory duties.



However, working together, there are opportunities to support significant change and improve outcomes.

- The communities of Aberdeen are the city's biggest asset and, through engagement and empowerment, are key to its future.
- Whilst recognising the financial pressures, public services in Aberdeen are collectively responsible for very significant assets.
- Technology is increasingly an enabler to work differently and across 6organisational boundaries to deliver earlier and more effective services.

Making Change Happen

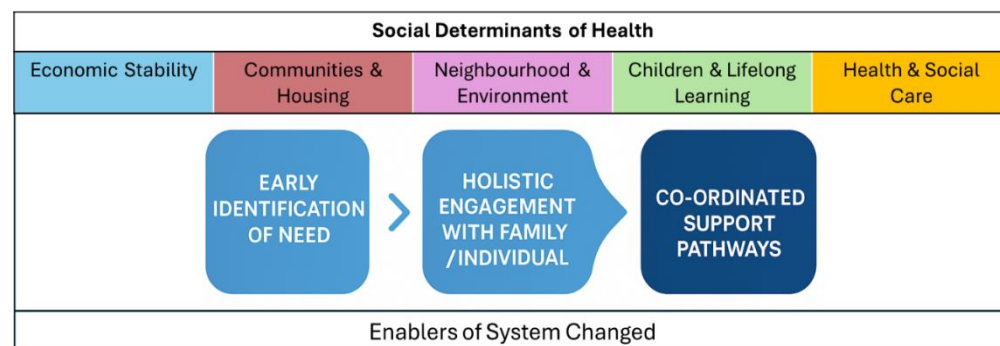
Tackling these challenges and improving outcomes for the city and its people means we (community planning partners and citizens), need to work together, with shared priorities and pooled resources.

With pressure on funding and persistent inequalities, our aim must be to support those most in need by preventing harm through addressing the fundamental causes and wider determinants of health.

We will seek to identify people's needs as early as possible, working with people, families and communities in an integrated way and offering co-ordinated pathways and services that meet those needs in an effective and sustainable way.

How we plan and design services will be critical to their success. Through this Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Community Planning partners are committed to working jointly on those parts of the system that will enable effective change. These include leadership, use of resources, commissioning of services, management of systems and data, and engagement and empowerment of the community.

We believe that through this approach Aberdeen can be a city where everyone has equitable access to opportunities, services, and support to live healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives, regardless of background or circumstance.



Developing the Plan

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future

People of Aberdeen and our communities are at the heart of Community Planning Aberdeen. 2087 people across Aberdeen, including 587 children and young people, shared what matters most to them through our Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future engagement. The engagement ran from 24th March to 18th May 2025 and was a combination of the following:

- online survey for adults
- online survey designed for children and young people
- 6 locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
- outreach programme where we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen and facilitated participation to meet people's needs.

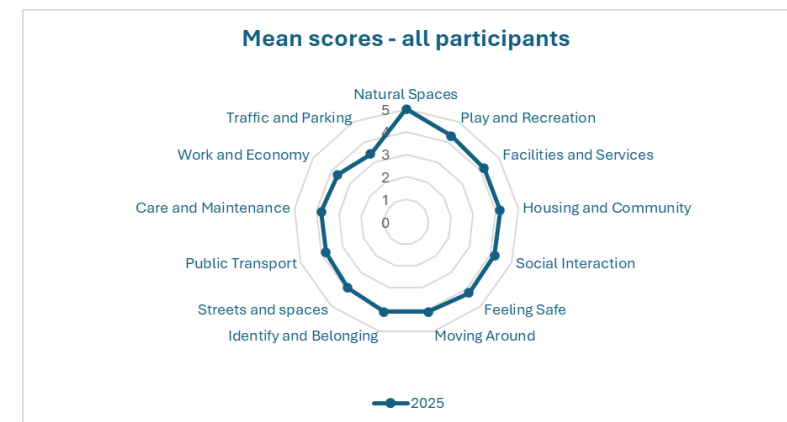
Engagement Results

Participants rated a range of place-and-community-related themes on a scale of 1–7 and contributed more than 13,000 comments about what they think is working well in Aberdeen and the areas they felt needed to improve. The data and comments have been considered alongside the Population Needs Assessment in making decisions about which priorities and system changes should be within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Read the full engagement report [here](#). Feedback to each of the themes raised as areas for improvement can be viewed [here](#).

The five highest ranking themes were:	The five lowest ranking themes were:
Natural space (5)	Influence and sense of control (3.3)
Play and recreation (4.3)	Traffic and parking (3.4)
Facilities and services (4.2)	Work and Economy (3.7)
Social interaction (4.2)	Care and Maintenance (3.8)
Feeling safe (4.2)	Public Transport (3.8)



Overall Scores



People of Aberdeen: As it is 2026 and Vision for 2036

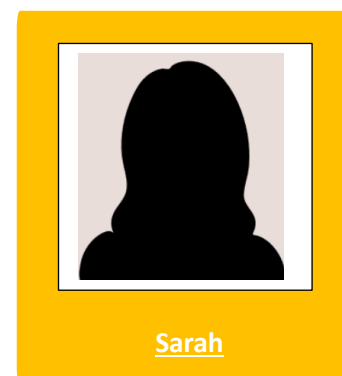
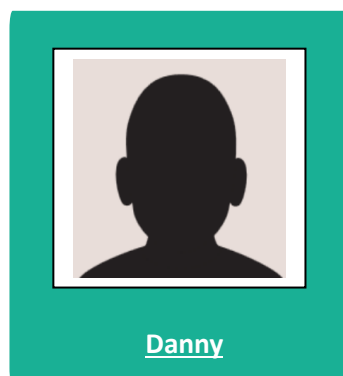
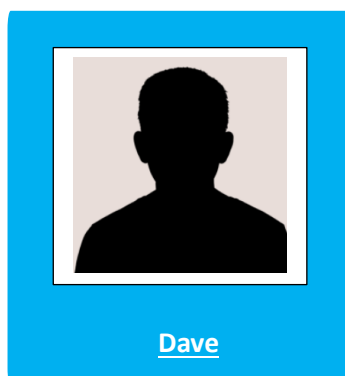
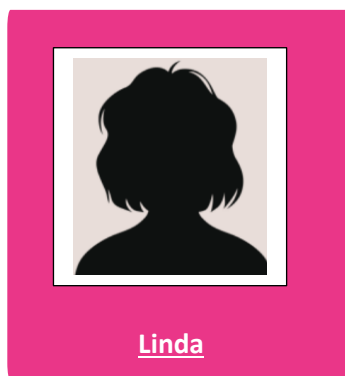
Every plan begins with a story. In Aberdeen, stories unfold every day. Stories of families, young people, older residents, and communities striving for a better future. Take the story Sarah, who dreams of having a home with outdoor space or be near a park that she can enjoy with her baby and explore employment opportunities in retail, or Danny who wants to see his kids growing up, happy, living a better life. These stories are not just anecdotes, they are the lived experiences that shape our city and are at the heart of our Plan for 2026-2036. They reveal what matters most to our citizens: health, opportunity, safety, belonging, and hope and the changes in the Plan have been built on these.

Those facing the greatest disadvantage often encounter challenges across multiple social factors. Many individuals belong to more than one group, experiencing overlapping and intersecting forms of inequality.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 recognises this complexity and is focused on reducing the inequalities experienced across the city. To support the development of the plan, a range of personas were co-created across services. While grounded in real lived experiences, these personas have been blended to ensure anonymity. These stories matter because they show what life is like now and what it could be in the future. They remind us that behind every statistic is a person, a family, a community. By listening and learning from these experiences, we can design solutions that truly make a difference.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan is built on this commitment: to listen, to learn, and to act. Through the changes set out in this Plan, we aim to transform Aberdeen for everyone, tackling inequalities and creating conditions where every person can thrive.

Explore the stories of people in Aberdeen today and discover our vision for how their lives could be improved by delivering this Plan. Click the images below to see the potential impact.



Aberdeen 2036: Our Vision

Our vision is for Aberdeen to be ***“a city where everyone can thrive, regardless of background or circumstance”*** At the heart of this is a commitment to tackling poverty and inequality and supporting the city’s people to live healthy lives.

Our vision through our Ten Year Outcomes

Positive Destinations



More young people will leave school into work, training, or further study.

Fair Work



More people will have good, secure jobs with fair pay and conditions.

Poverty and Homelessness



Fewer people will be living in poverty and few people homeless

Connected, Greener, Sustainable



More people will feel they have influence and sense of control

Preventable Deaths



The gap in good health between areas will be smaller and fewer people will die of preventable deaths

Our vision through Robin’s Story

Robin was born in Aberdeen in 2026. Life hadn’t always been easy for Robin’s mum, who arrived in the city five years earlier and worked hard to care for both Robin and their granny while juggling part-time jobs. Settling into a new place can feel overwhelming, but support slowly began to grow around them.

Communities played a key role in helping Robin’s mum feel welcomed and connected. They offered guidance, introduced local services, and helped build relationships so Robin’s mum could fully integrate into the community that has become their home. Their family wasn’t alone. They had a case worker who knew them, checked in often, and helped them find the right support, from childcare and housing advice to the community hub. They were treated with dignity, not judgement.

As Robin grew, the community became their family. Mum volunteers at the local hub, where neighbours can find support from income and job support to joining activities. Afterward, they share stories over a cuppa in the café. When someone nearby needs help escaping harm, people knew how to act, because they were connected, trained, and cared enough to notice.

At school, Robin was encouraged to dream big. Robin spent time at the new city youth space, a bright, buzzing place full of art, music, and friendly adults who listened. When their friend George struggled with anxiety, he found support quickly at the local mental health hub. Being outdoors helps too, his neighbourhood has created new pocket parks with gardens, wildflowers, and food growing spaces where everyone can share and enjoy healthy food.

As Robin got older, their mum retrained through one of the city’s new green jobs pathways. Now she’s working in a role she loves, earning enough to live well and plan for the future. And Granny? She’s thriving too, joining community groups, accessing the support she needs close to home, and helping shape what her neighbourhood needs.

Now, at ten years old, Robin’s Aberdeen is a city full of life , green, safe, and caring. Robin cycles to school, and plays in accessible parks. Their mum is thriving, granny is valued, and Robin’s world feels open and full of possibility.

How Will We Make It Happen?

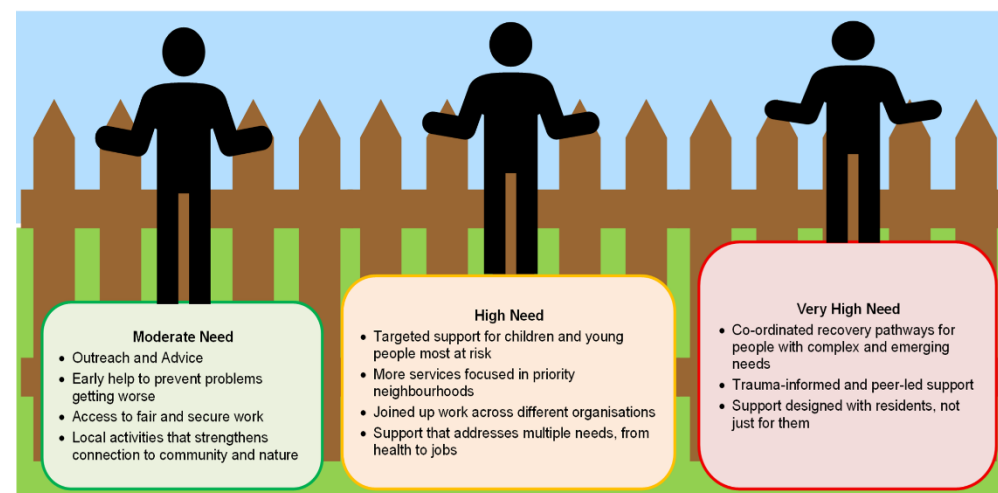
Consideration of Aberdeen's [Population Needs Assessment](#), Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future citizen engagement, stakeholder engagement, the known and emerging risks and exploration of the social determinants of health have helped identify the key challenges and changes needed to deliver our vision.

Community Planning Aberdeen recognise the disproportionately high levels of poverty and inequalities which exists within some communities across the city, as well as the current financial environment in which our partners are working within and the need to do things differently. We need to reduce inequalities and prevent harm before it happens and focus on communities and individuals experiencing the negative effects of poverty and inequalities. We aim to achieve this by prioritising long-term, prevention-based system changes that focus on tackling the root causes of inequality, not just the symptoms across each of the social determinants of health. The system changes are to be invested in our communities and to ensure Just Transition of Aberdeen from oil to other sectors through community wealth building and inclusive growth.

Proportionate Universalism

We need to be honest and that whilst we need to improve the health of all, we need to improve the health of the poorest fastest. Where inequality persists, treating everyone equally may not lead to equitable outcomes, therefore in this Plan we take a proportionate universalism approach. This means that some people will need additional support to make the vision a reality. The Plan explains what additional support will become available to people who need it. At the same time, everyone will continue to have access to regular services, like education, health care and policing, already provided by the many different organisations working together to deliver the LOIP.

By using proportionate universalism, we reduce the inequality currently experienced; overall outcomes for everyone improve; gaps between communities close, fulfilling our vision of a fairer city in which *“Aberdeen is a city where everyone can thrive regardless of background or circumstance”*. Each Ten Year Outcome has a universal foundation, services, places and opportunities that everyone in Aberdeen can access, and then they system changes layers on enhanced and targeted actions where need is higher, such as in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 neighbourhoods or for vulnerable groups.



Our Prevention Goals

At the heart of this Plan and underpinning each of the Ten Year Outcomes is a shared ambition: to reduce inequalities and prevent harm before it happens. The success of this Plan and the changes will be measured by the difference we make in people’s lives who are currently experiencing inequalities and harm and preventing our children and young people from that experience.

Our four overarching prevention goals will show whether we are achieving the change we want to see. Along with, our 5 Ten Year Outcomes, they reflect the outcomes that matter most to our communities: safety, stability, health, and wellbeing.

Social Determinants of Health

There is nothing more fundamental to people’s prosperity than their health. We know that 80% of what makes up someone’s health is determined by what happens outside of the healthcare system. Living in good health includes the other building blocks of a healthy society, these are called, the social determinants of health. Your job and your income, your housing, your neighbourhood, and all the things that influence these contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across our city. Our Ten Year Outcomes are aligned to the social determinants of health.

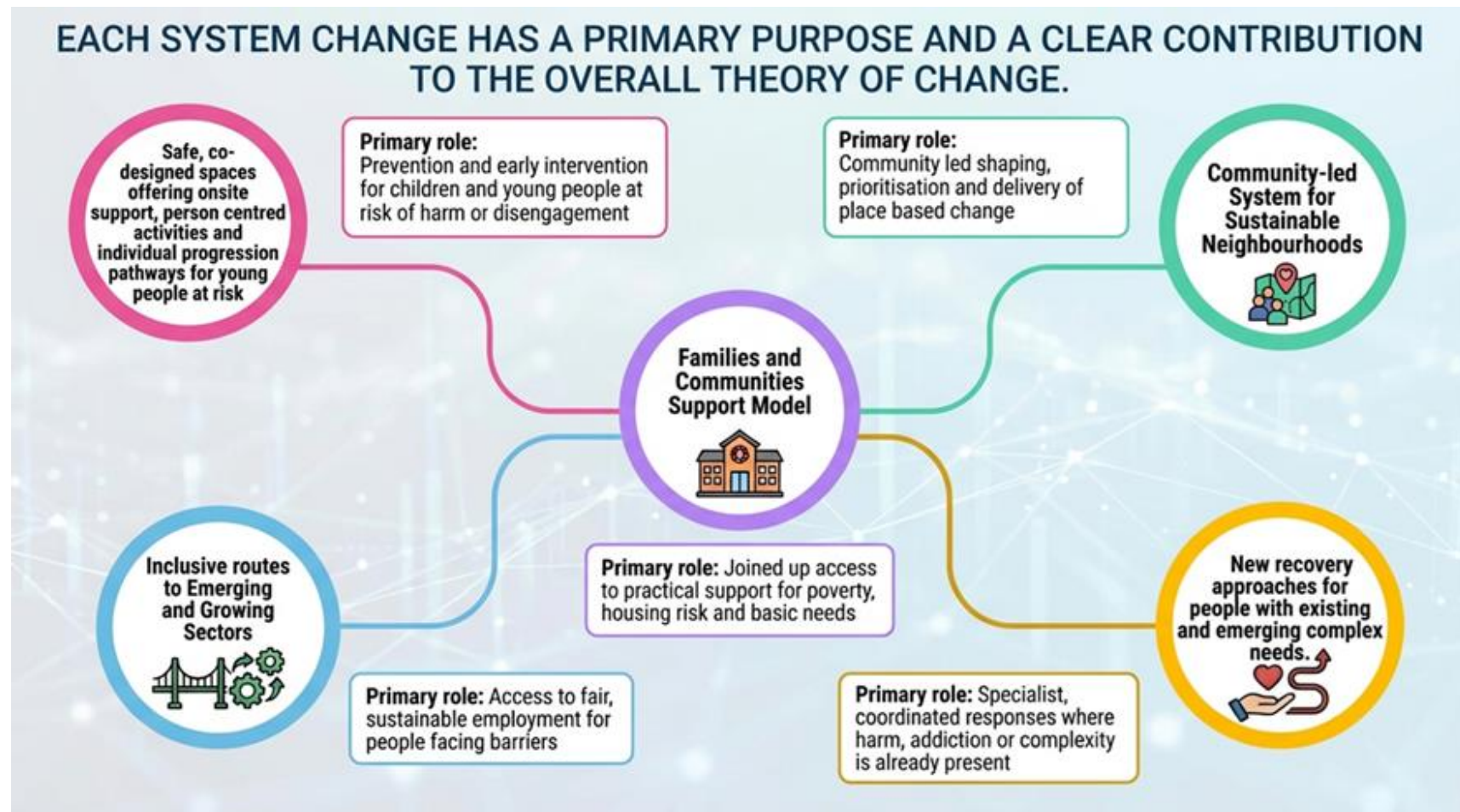
Health inequalities are unfair and preventable, often due to adverse social circumstances such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, childhood experiences, and isolation. Over the next ten years, we want to ensure the social, economic and physical environments in which we are born, grow up, live, work and age help to create improved health and wellbeing. Partners will tackle these inequalities by targeting support to those who need it most, promoting self-care through prevention and early intervention, making it easier for people to get the support and information they need, and working collectively with others including communities, families, and carers. Our approach will be inclusive and empowering, with a focus on prevention, transformation and building individual and community capacity.

Our ultimate measures of success in achieving this vision will be that by 2036

Domestic Violence Not to see one of our neighbours murdered by her abusive husband	Homelessness To make homeless rare, brief and non recurring
Healthy Weight To make Type 2 diabetes in children rare	Mental Health To make the prescription of medication for anxiety, depression or psychosis rare, brief and non recurring

Interconnections

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 sets out five system changes across the five Social Determinants of Health. Although presented within separate outcomes, these system changes are interconnected. The five system changes are deliberately designed to operate as an integrated system. Each has a distinct purpose, population focus and contribution, while sharing responsibility for reducing inequality and improving outcomes. Clear boundaries, escalation routes and place based coordination are essential to ensure confident delivery and avoid duplication.



Our Ten Year Outcomes

Community Planning Aberdeen have identified 5 Ten Year Outcomes. Ten Year Outcomes are the key priorities that Community Planning Aberdeen want to achieve by 2036. Underpinning each are changes to our current systems that are designed to tackle the root causes of inequality, not just the symptoms. The changes make sure that every person and family has the right support, at the right time, to live healthier, safer, and more fulfilled lives. By aligning actions across the five Social Determinants of Health, we place people at the centre, ensure that no one is left behind and that every decision contributes to our shared vision.

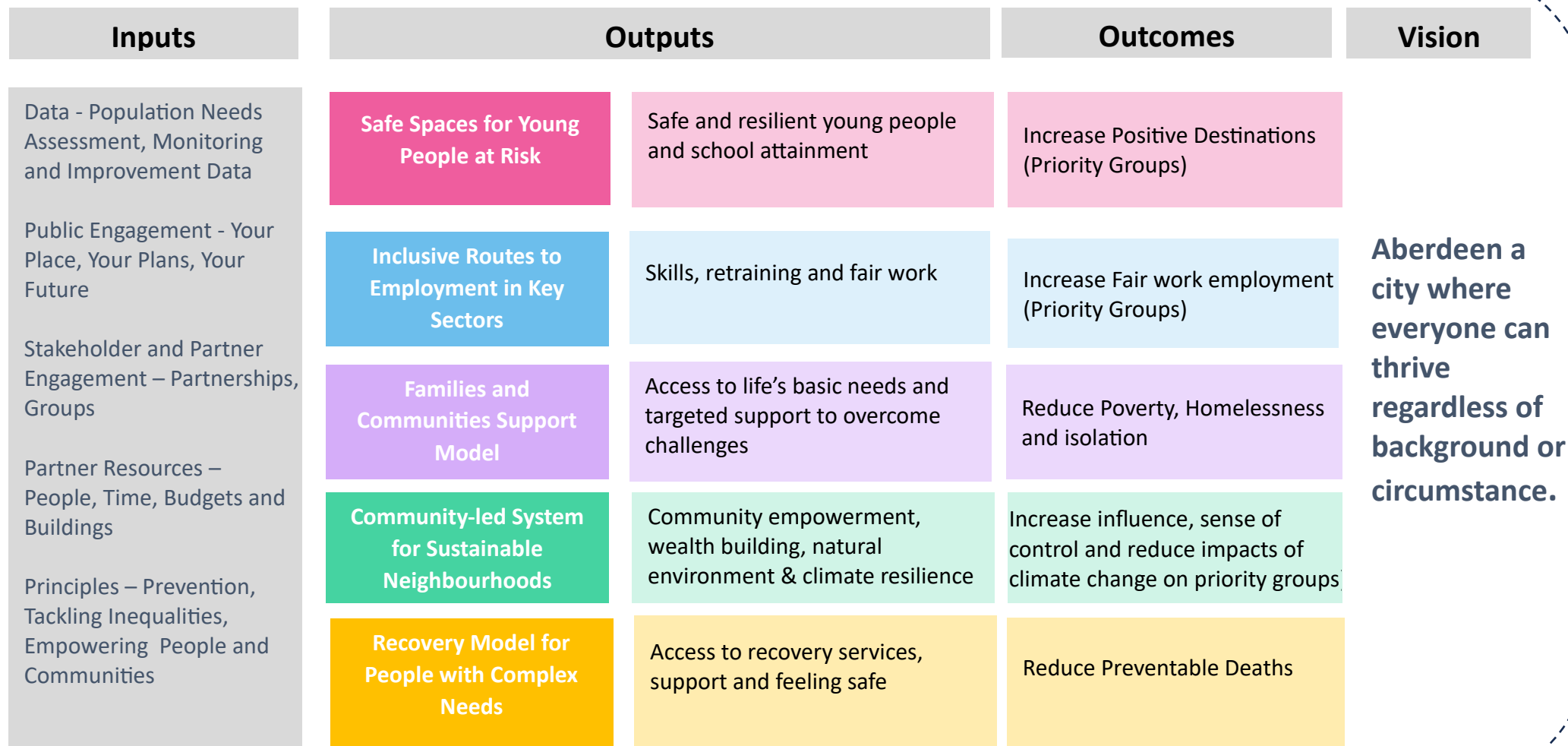
The following chapters in this document include the detailed improvement aims and system changes we will take forward to influence the achievement of these Ten Year Outcomes.

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning	Economic Stability	Communities and Housing	Neighbourhood and Environment	Health and Social Care
POSITIVE DESTINATIONS 	FAIR WORK 	POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS 	CONNECTED, GREENER, SUSTAINABLE 	PREVENTABLE DEATHS 
TEN YEAR OUTCOME 1 95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.	TEN YEAR OUTCOME 2 Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment and increase by 3% the employment rate of vulnerable groups by 2036.	TEN YEAR OUTCOME 3 Reduce the proportion of people living in relative poverty and homelessness by 6.5% by 2036.	TEN YEAR OUTCOME 4 Increase proportion of people from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 who feel they have influence and sense of control by 10% by 2036	TEN YEAR OUTCOME 5 20% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and a 20% reduction in suicide rate city wide.

Our Logic Model

The logic model shows our overarching theory of change

Theory of Change



14

Each Ten Year Outcome is supported by a number of system changes that Community Planning Aberdeen will implement to support achieve our vision. Each outcome and system change is also accompanied by medium term improvement aims and short terms output measures that will help us to monitor and measure impact. The following sections will explore each of the Ten Year Outcomes.



95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2036.

Why is this a priority?

It is clear that the life circumstances of children and the impact of poverty affects their educational attainment, and that educational inequality can lead to inequalities of health and wellbeing in early adulthood and beyond. In Aberdeen, increasing numbers of children live in poverty, have disabilities, have additional support needs, or have developmental concerns before starting school.

By age 16–19, participation in education, employment, or training is significantly lower in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) compared with the least deprived areas (95.9%). Young people who have experienced trauma in early life are at greater risk of disengaging from school and require targeted support to prevent lifelong disadvantage. Community feedback highlights the need for safe, affordable, youth-focused spaces, activities, and accessible lifelong learning opportunities. Without intervention, these inequalities will continue to limit positive destinations and long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Our Response

Children and young people will be empowered through co-created, safe, and welcoming spaces, with access to trusted adults, and initiatives to build confidence and emotional skills. We will improve early identification and coordinated multi-agency responses for those affected by exploitation, substance use, or developmental delays, ensuring timely and effective support.

We will provide bespoke support for young people at risk of leaving school without a positive destination, develop work experience programmes that bridge classroom learning with practical workplace skills, especially for disengaged young people.

Where We Are Heading

By 2036, through collaborative planning and our system changes empowering young people and supporting their attainment and transition, we aim to break cycles of deprivation, foster resilience, and ensure every child and young person in Aberdeen has the opportunity to achieve a positive destination on leaving school.



CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Input			Output	Outcome	
System Change	People who will receive proportionate support	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
1. Safe, co-designed spaces offering onsite support, person centred activities and individual progression pathways for young people at risk Co-design and deliver a joined-up system of safe, supportive spaces and approaches, targeted interventions and personalised progression pathways that identifies and supports young people at risk of harm, disengagement from education, substance use or child criminal exploitation.	Children and young people at risk of harm, homelessness, disengagement from education, substance use or child criminal exploitation Boys in deprived neighbourhoods	Aberdeen City Council Co-Lead: Police Scotland	No. of young people (by locality) using the safe spaces % of young people at risk of substance use harm or exploitation actively supported through new model, reporting improved SHANNARI measures No. of youth anti-social behaviour calls % of 12-18 year old boys reporting sense of belonging or connection to peers Percentage increase in school attendance % of Young people receiving bespoke support transitioning to positive destination	90% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2031. Baseline: (2023/24) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1: 84.5% Looked After Children: 60% Additional Support Needs/ Disability : 89.4% SIMD 5: 94.7%	Ten Year Outcome 1 95% of young people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and vulnerable groups achieve a positive destination on leaving school by 2031. Baseline: 2023/24 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1: 84.5% Looked After Children: 60% Additional Support Needs/ Disability: 89.4% SIMD 5: 94.7%



Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment and increase by 3% the employment rate of vulnerable groups by 2036.

Why is this a priority?

Too many people in Aberdeen, particularly in priority neighbourhoods, are excluded from secure, fairly paid work. One in seven households has nobody in employment, and 12.3% of children live in low-income households, with rates significantly higher in some communities. These challenges are unevenly distributed: employment rates for ethnic minority residents are below the city average, young people and those without qualifications face barriers to work, as do single parents. At the same time, 10% of employees earn less than the Living Wage, meaning work does not always protect people from poverty.

The number of people seeking work is rising, benefit claimant rates reach almost 10% in parts of the city, and there are fewer jobs emerging in growth sectors. As Aberdeen transitions away from oil and gas, residents have highlighted the need for economic diversification, clearer pathways into work, stronger local job opportunities and community-led approaches that build wealth locally. Addressing unemployment and access to fair work is essential to tackling poverty and creating a more resilient economy.

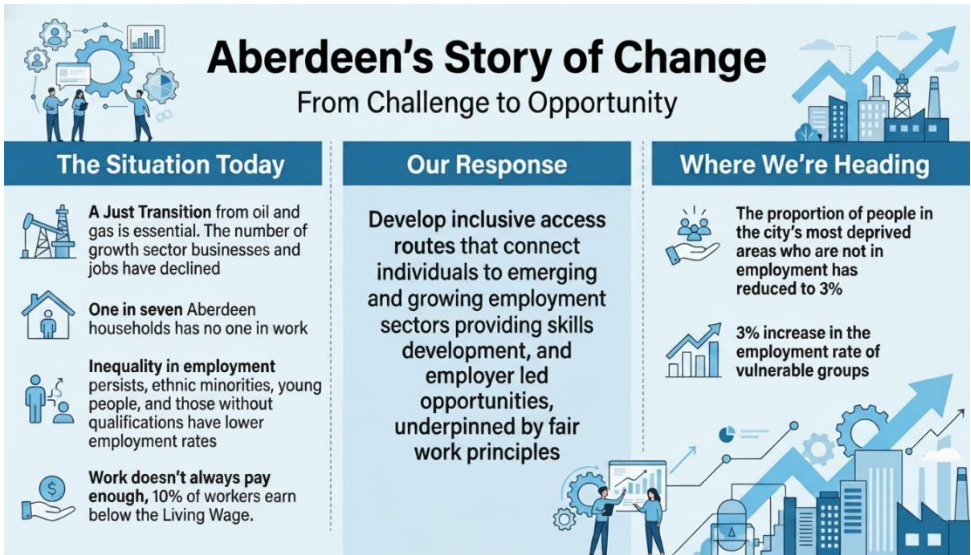
Our response

Our approach focuses on economic diversification, and creating the conditions for fair work, with priority neighbourhoods and vulnerable groups at the centre. We will support a just transition by diversifying Aberdeen’s economy and develop inclusive access routes that connect individuals to emerging and growing employment sectors providing

skills development, and employer-led opportunities, underpinned by fair work principles

Where we are heading

By 2036, more residents in priority neighbourhoods and vulnerable groups will have secure, fair jobs, and employment gaps between disadvantaged groups and the City average, will have narrowed. Aberdeen will have a more diverse economy, with stronger local job opportunities, and better job quality, ensuring economic benefits are shared fairly across the city.



ECONOMIC STABILITY					
Input		Output	Outcome		
System Change	People who will receive proportionate support	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
2. <u>Inclusive routes to Emerging and Growing Sectors</u> Develop inclusive access routes that connect individuals to emerging and growing employment sectors providing skills development, and employer-led opportunities, underpinned by fair work principles.	People facing the greatest barriers to employment.	Skills Development Scotland Co-lead: Aberdeen City Council	No. of people (by locality and vulnerable group) gaining or achieving employment through access routes No. of jobs by occupation titles posted across Aberdeen No. of people (locality and vulnerable group) employed or volunteering in growth sector Number, sector and size of employers offering work preparation activities and employment.	Reduce to 4.5% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment and increase by 1.5% the employment rate of vulnerable groups by 2031. Baseline: Claimant Count (November 2025) SIMD 1: 5.4% Aberdeen average: 3.4% Ethnic minority: 75.2%; EA core or work-limiting disabled: 58.51% Females: 70.6% 16-24 years: 57.1% 16-64: 76.4%	Ten Year Outcome 2 Reduce to 3% the proportion of people aged 16 and above in Scottish index of Multiple Deprivation 1 that are not in employment and increase by 3% the employment rate of vulnerable groups by 2036. Baseline: Claimant Count (November 2025) SIMD 1: 5.4% Aberdeen average: 3.4% Employment Rate (Jul 24-Jun 25) Ethnic minority: 75.2%; EA core or work-limiting disabled: 58.51% Females: 70.6%; 16-24 years: 57.1% 16-64: 76.4 All: 76.5



Why is this a priority?

In Aberdeen today, too many people face impossible choices, deciding between heating their homes or putting food on the table. Rising costs, insecure incomes, and inefficient housing have left 18% of the population in relative poverty, with thousands of children growing up in low-income households. One in seven households has no one in work, with lone parents, larger families, those with very young children, younger mothers, families affected by disability and minority ethnic communities facing the greatest vulnerability to child poverty. Support systems, though well-intentioned, are fragmented and reactive, leaving gaps that perpetuate hardship and increase the risk of homelessness. Community voices have made it clear: there is an urgent need for support with the cost of living and longer term solutions that are shaped by those who experience these challenges first-hand.

Our response

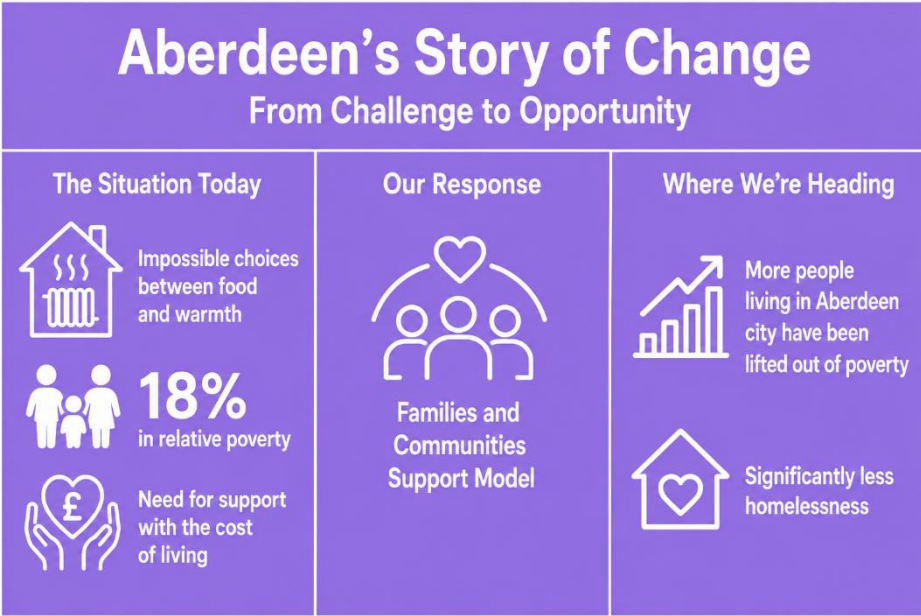
In response, Aberdeen is taking bold, coordinated action to address the root causes of poverty and inequality by moving away from fragmented, crisis-driven responses towards a joined-up, preventative and community-led system. Through the Families and Communities Support Model, services across the city are being connected so people can access practical help, advice and prevention support in one place, earlier and without being passed between organisations.

At the same time, embedding early intervention and homelessness prevention, supported by earlier risk identification, strengthened partnership working under Ask and Act, and new digital tools, means fewer people reach crisis point. Together, these changes reflect what

communities have told us they need: accessible, joined-up support shaped by lived experience, focused not only on managing immediate pressures but on building long-term financial stability, secure housing, and a sustained reduction in poverty across Aberdeen. This system change aims to ensure people receive the right support at the right time, and seeks to reduce health inequalities and the risk of poverty and homelessness, while preventing avoidable harms such as poor mental wellbeing and substance use.

Where we are heading

By 2036, these system changes will have transformed Aberdeen. Fewer people will live in poverty, and homelessness will be significantly reduced. Aberdeen will be a city where support is joined-up, and every person has the power, support, and opportunity to flourish.



COMMUNITIES & HOUSING

COMMUNITIES & HOUSING					
Input			Output	Outcome	
System Change	People who will receive proportionate support	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
3. Families and Communities Support Model Develop a place-based system of hubs, personal casework, integrated pathways and outreach support providing a single co-ordinated experience of access to financial empowerment, housing support and pathways to safe and affordable homes, food sharing, health, employability and family support. This system change aims to ensure people receive the right support at the right time, and seeks to reduce health inequalities and the risk of poverty and homelessness, while preventing avoidable harms such as poor mental wellbeing, domestic abuse and substance use.	Families in deprived areas and those identified as vulnerable. People most at risk of homelessness	Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Co-lead: ACVO	No. households receiving financial and wraparound support. No. of families whose needs are met through universal services Number of individuals prevented from being homeless % of vulnerable families with children under five receiving support No. of families subject to public protection intervention	Reduce the proportion of people in relative poverty and homelessness by 3% by 2031 Baseline 2024/25: 11.9% of children (0-15 yrs) in Aberdeen live in relative poverty and 18% of people in Scotland. Baseline: 332 young people and 838 single adults homeless (2024/2025)	Ten Year Outcome 3 Reduce the proportion of people in relative poverty and homelessness by 6.5% by 2036 Baseline 2024/25: 11.9% of children (0-15 yrs) in Aberdeen live in relative poverty and 18% of people in Scotland. Baseline: 332 young people and 838 single adults homeless (2024/2025)



Why is this a priority?

Despite strong examples of good practice, many communities in Aberdeen, particularly those experiencing the highest levels of deprivation, continue to feel disempowered. Engagement is often fragmented, short-term, and service-led, and rarely leads to a meaningful shift in power or influence. This contributes to mistrust, frustration, and a lack of visible change, which in turn deepens inequality and weakens local confidence and capacity.

Nature and the environment are a priority. Access to green space and nature-based activities improves mental wellbeing, reduces social isolation, and strengthens community cohesion. However, residents in our most deprived areas are four times more likely to have limited access. Climate and energy challenges intensify these inequalities: over half of residents (52.3%) worry about severe weather, rising to 71.4% in deprived areas, while 25% fear they cannot heat their homes.

Although public greenspace covers around 21% of Aberdeen, accessibility and use remain key issues. Feedback from *Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future* highlights the importance of protecting and increasing natural green spaces for recreation, air quality, and biodiversity. Residents have called for more tree planting, and more accessible green areas, especially close to where people live. Taken together, this highlights a clear need for a new approach that both addresses inequality and strengthens community influence, while improving access to nature and building resilience to climate and social challenges.

Our response

We will co-create a 'community collaborative' approach to deliver neighbourhood action on local living, the natural environment climate resilience, community energy and sustainable travel, underpinned by communities and services sharing power, responsibility and decision-making.

We will focus on priority neighbourhoods, supporting and empowering local people to lead positive change in their communities.

Through this approach, communities and partners will work together to expand access to nature through green spaces, growing areas and active travel routes; co-design community energy solutions with neighbourhoods, including solar, heat and power; and support low waste and low emission neighbourhoods through local initiatives and incentives.

As this approach develops, communities will build skills, confidence, influence, and participation will increase. Community wealth building will be supported, environmental quality will improve, and neighbourhoods will become places where people feel they have a genuine role in shaping their future.

Where we are heading

By 2036, more residents will feel empowered and in control, and more involved in shaping their community and natural environment.



Neighbourhood and Environment

Input		Output		Outcome	
System Change	People who will receive proportionate support	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
4. A Community-led System for Sustainable Neighbourhoods Co-creating a community collaborative approach to deliver neighbourhood action on local living, improving the natural environment, climate resilience, community energy and sustainable travel, underpinned by communities and services sharing power, responsibility and decision-making	Priority neighbourhoods and excluded and diverse communities	NHS Grampian Co-Lead: Station House Media Unit/ NESTRANS / NESCAN Hub	No. people benefitting from services/interventions through community commissioning. No. of equality groups represented and directly engaged in policy decision making processes. No. neighbourhood-level services co-produced with communities. No. of new pocket parks/areas for growing food and proportion of land for nature % of people walking, cycling and wheeling No. of Community energy initiatives and no. of households using reuse/repair initiatives	Increase proportion of people who feel they have influence and sense of control by 5% by 2031 Baseline: City Wide 22.6% SIMD 1 24.6% SIMD 5 29.2% (Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future 2025)	Ten Year Outcome 4 Increase proportion of people from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 who feel they have influence and sense of control by 10% by 2036 Baseline 2025: SIMD 1 24.6% SIMD 5 21.6% (Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future 2025)

20% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and a 20% reduction in suicide rate city wide.



Why is this a priority?

Healthy life expectancy in Aberdeen is declining, and overall life expectancy growth has stalled. The gap between the most and least deprived areas is substantial, 9.5 years for males and 8.4 years for females, meaning people in deprived communities not only live shorter lives but spend more years in poor health. This inequality is reinforced by higher rates of preventable harm, including alcohol and drug related deaths, suicide, domestic abuse and poor mental health outcomes.

People experiencing multiple and complex needs, such as mental ill health, substance use, trauma, offending behaviour and gambling-related harm, interact with multiple services that operate to different thresholds, with no single coordinated pathway of support. As a result, individuals often have repeated contact with services without receiving effective, joined-up intervention, with support typically mobilised only at crisis points.

Community safety and social connections are also key to reducing health inequalities. Residents in safe, supportive neighbourhoods with low crime and domestic abuse are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to engage in healthy behaviours. Engagement through ‘Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future’ highlighted the importance of accessible facilities, intergenerational and alcohol-free activities, and initiatives to support people using substances, showing that improving safety, services, and community opportunities is central to supporting longer, healthier lives for all.

Our response

Our response focuses on improving access to services, and enhancing community safety. We will improve access to services, reduce harm and keep people safe by creating new recovery approaches for people with existing and emerging complex needs. This includes developing trauma-informed, integrated and coordinated recovery pathways including peer-led approaches to reduce stigma and isolation for people already experiencing factors that contribute to harms relating to substance use, gambling and risk of suicide.

Where we are heading

By 2036, Aberdeen will be a healthier city, with reduced health inequalities and longer, healthier lives for all. Harmful substance use reduced, mental health support improved and coordinated and accessible support available. Preventable deaths have reduced.



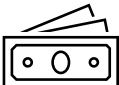
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE					
Input			Output	Outcome	
System Change	People who will receive proportionate support	Lead Partner	Output Measure	Medium Term 2031	Longer Term 2036
5. New recovery approaches for people with existing and emerging complex need Develop trauma-informed, integrated and coordinated recovery pathways including peer-led approaches to reduce stigma and isolation for people already experiencing factors that contribute to harms relating to substance use, gambling and risk of suicide.	People experiencing existing complex needs such as problems with mental health and substance related offending and emerging needs such as gambling related harm and risk of suicide.	Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	No. of people with existing or emerging complex needs supported (by SIMD and by complex need) % of people engaged with approaches attending peer to peer support No. of individuals in the Justice System referred to recovery for substance-related issues and % with no repeat offences. No. of people supported by the Gambling Recovery Network % of people convicted of domestic abuse supported through new approaches. % of adults reporting that they are able to manage their own health and wellbeing 'very well'	10% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and a 10% reduction in suicide rate city wide. Baselines: Rates per 100,000 population for SIMD 1: Alcohol-specific deaths - 40.4 (2019-2023) Drug-related deaths - 57.3 (2019-2023) SIMD 1: Alcohol-specific deaths -40.4 (2019-2023) Drug-related deaths - 57.3 (2019-2023) SIMD 5: Alcohol related deaths (10.5) and Drug related deaths (5.2) Suicide Rate Aberdeen City – 28 (2019-2023)	Ten Year Outcome 5 20% reduction in deaths in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 from alcohol and drugs and a 20% reduction in suicide rate city wide. Baselines: Rates per 100,000 population for SIMD 1: Alcohol-specific deaths - 40.4 (2019-2023) Drug-related deaths - 57.3 (2019-2023) SIMD 5: Alcohol related deaths (10.5) and Drug related deaths (5.2) Suicide Rate Aberdeen City – 28 (2019-2023)

Achieving Outcomes in Aberdeen: Ten Enablers of Change

To enable this plan to be delivered and our Ten Year Outcomes to be achieved, Community Planning needs to create the conditions for effective system-wide change and collaboration. The ten enablers of system change below provide a shared foundation for how partners can work collectively to deliver the system changes detailed in the Plan and achieve the desired outcomes for people of Aberdeen. By embedding these enablers within our strategic approach, we strengthen our capacity to deliver shared outcomes, ensuring that change is driven by evidence, supported by strong relationships, and sustained through collective accountability. This creates the right environment for partners to align priorities, make better use of resources, and deliver meaningful improvements for people and communities.

				
Strategic Vision	Collaborative Leadership	Data and Evaluation: Evidence-Based	Integrated Working Across Systems	Quality Improvement
Ten-year rolling Local Outcome Improvement Plan provides a clear, shared direction, refreshed every five years to ensure relevance.	Robust governance structures foster shared leadership and accountability. Enhanced by alignment of single system strategies which enables all partners to show wider contribution to Ten Year Outcomes.	Priorities and system changes grounded in data, ensuring interventions are targeted, evidence based and can be evaluated. Sharing data effectively ensuring systems are in place to support system change delivery.	System-level changes are prioritised to encourage transformation and integration. Cross-cutting improvement aims reduce duplication, maximise resources, and ensure partners are united in delivering shared outcomes.	The quality improvement methodology provides a consistent framework for testing and scaling effective system changes. Capacity building is central, with training to ensure partners are equipped to design, test, scale, and adapt.

				
Communication	Community Empowerment	Alignment of Resources and Commissioning	Workforce Development	Adaptive Governance and Accountability
Consistent and coordinated messaging across all Ten Year Outcomes with a focus on cross-cutting areas, such as stigma, ensuring alignment and public visibility and supporting behaviour change.	Communities are equal partners and the PANEL principles—Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment, and Legality are rooted in engagement.	Partners collaborate to identify where resources can be pooled, ensuring that commissioning decisions reflect Ten Year Outcomes. Alignment supports a system-wide view of resource use, enabling system changes to be delivered.	Workforce development builds a trauma-informed, skilled, and collaborative partnership workforce equipped to identify and respond to harm effectively. It also ensures that staff are able to use the technology and tools to work together.	A culture of constructive challenge, openness, and curiosity across governance structures. The Intelligent Board principles guide scrutiny, and improvement. Public quarterly and annual reporting informs the community.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Realising our vision and Ten Year Outcomes will take concerted efforts over the next ten years. Community Planning Aberdeen has adopted the Model for Improvement (MFI) as the methodology for the design and testing of all the system-level changes. The approach ensures that there is a consistent, evidence-led, and disciplined approach. Multi-agency systems are complex and each of the system changes operate across multiple organisational boundaries, with different statutory responsibilities, and varying data systems, cultures, and governance arrangements. This complexity increases the risk of variation, duplication, and unintended consequences. Applying the Model for Improvement provides a consistent structure for making sense of system-wide challenges, aligning partners around shared aims, and enabling orderly progression through the stages of discovery, testing, learning, and implementation. This method offers the discipline needed for coordinated action while supporting flexibility and adaptation within different organisations.

All system change will be tested iteratively using Plan–Do–Study–Act (PDSA) cycles. Progression from testing to scale-up requires demonstrated improvement, assessment of system readiness, and approval through established governance processes. Evidence from targeted tests will inform whether changes should be adapted before wider implementation. Given the complexity of the systems, time is required, to understand the current systems and to design the system change. These early stages lay the foundation for the partnership to then test the change using the plan, do, study, act, cycle. Throughout all stages, progress updates will be reported to the Community Planning governance structures.

Governance

Tracking progress on Inequality

Tracking progress on inequality will be a central test of success for delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Performance and outcome data will therefore be monitored not only at an overall city level, but across the social gradient and in priority places and groups, to assess whether outcomes are improving fastest for those with the poorest outcomes. This approach reflects the LOIP's commitment to proportionate universalism and prevention, ensuring that improvement does not mask widening gaps and that action is demonstrably contributing to the reduction of inequality over time. Gradient-based evidence from our localities and children's services reporting will inform governance, resource prioritisation and ongoing refinement of delivery.

Community Planning Aberdeen Governance Structure

The Community Planning Aberdeen Board provides strategic leadership and direction for Community Planning across Aberdeen. It will scrutinise overall delivery of progress against this Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the underpinning Locality Plans to ensure improved outcomes across all areas of Aberdeen.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN GOVERNANCE

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

OUTCOME THEMED PORTFOLIO BOARDS AND LOCALITY SPONSORSHIP
Lead & accountable for delivering system change(s) and improving outcomes across the social gradient.

STATUTORY PARTNERSHIPS
Deliver statutory duties and show preventative impact and assurance against the Unified Risk Register.

LOCALITIES
Lead place based delivery, and evidence how activity narrows inequality in neighbourhoods.

GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION
Unified approach to risk, performance and learning.

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN MANAGEMENT GROUP

PLACE, BELONGING AND OPPORTUNITY
2. Inclusive routes to Emerging and Growing Sectors.
4. Community-led System for Sustainable Neighbourhoods.

- Community Wealth Building
- Local Employability Partnership

PREVENTION & PLACE BASED WORKING
1. Safe, co-designed spaces for young people at risk.
3. Families and Communities Support Model.

- Children's Services Board
- Community Learning and Development

STABILITY, RECOVERY & PROTECTION
5. New recovery approaches for people with existing and emerging complex needs.

- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Community Justice Group
- Community Safety Partnership
- Violence Against Women Partnership

LOCALITY PARTNERSHIPS

NORTH

- Locality Empowerment Group
- Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
- Locality Sponsor

SOUTH

- Locality Empowerment Group
- Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
- Locality Sponsor

CENTRAL

- Locality Empowerment Group
- Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
- Locality Sponsor

UNIFIED RISK REGISTER
Aligns across governance, performance and assurance

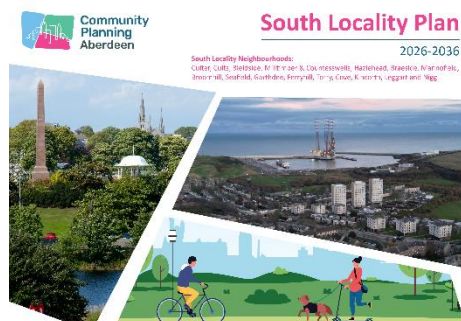
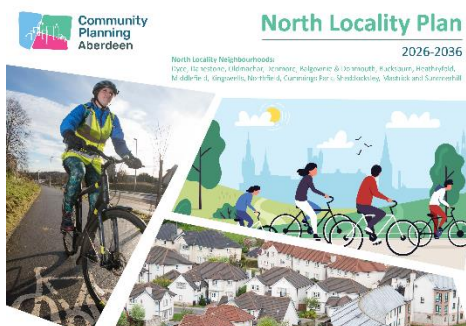
IDENTIFY
Assess risks and issues

RESPOND
Mitigate, escalate and take action

LEARN
Share learning and improve

Locality Planning

People make our communities, and each of our communities are unique. Across the city, people experience different outcomes than others, and communities want and need different solutions to help improve the outcomes in their areas. In addition to our city wide, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, we also have three underpinning Locality Plans. The Locality Plans for North, South and Central enable communities and wider partners to identify the actions to local challenges they want to take.



Get Involved

We have a growing network of community members, groups and organisations who are working with us in many different ways but there is so much to be done that we can do better together. Find out more about the different ways you can get involved by clicking on the links below:

[Find out more about Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

[Sign up for community updates](#)

[Join a Locality Empowerment Group](#)

[Join a Priority Neighbourhood Partnership](#)

[Become a member of our Citizen Panel](#)

[Find out about other ways of working with communities](#)

[Join our Community Empowerment Network](#)

Or simply get in touch by emailing communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Further Information:

If you have any questions about this report or Community Planning Aberdeen please contact: CommunityPlanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk To find out more about community planning please visit: <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/>

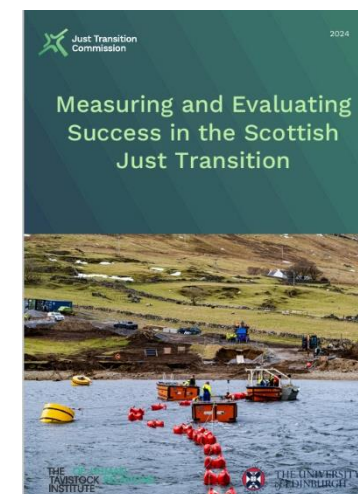
Resources

Significant public sector resources are invested in Aberdeen annually. There are ongoing financial pressures resulting from financial settlements and increasing demand for key services. Within this environment, all partners allocate resources to meet agreed priorities. With the approval of this Local Outcome Improvement Plan, partners are committed to supporting and resourcing delivery of the system changes and achievement of the five Ten Year Outcomes.

In addition partners are committed to identifying where resources can be pooled and ensuring that commissioning decisions reflect and support achievement of the Ten Year Outcomes. Alignment supports a system-wide view of resource use, enabling system changes to be delivered.

Alignment

Scotland's Population Health Framework priorities and actions have informed the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The Plan as well as being mapped against the Population Health Framework, it has been mapped to ensure alignment with both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Scottish National Performance Framework (NPF). The mapping shows how local priorities and system changes support delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and the wider national outcomes. A list of the aligned national Plans and Strategies can be found [here](#)



Recent and Upcoming Scottish Legislation Requiring Multi-Agency Collaboration

Legislation	Status	Commencement	Agencies Involved	Key Collaboration Duties
Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025	Passed	Late 2025 → 2026	Local authorities, NHS boards, third-sector partners	Integration of health and social care; joint governance; resource pooling
Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024	Passed	2025 → 2026	Social work, education, health, justice agencies	Safeguarding coordination; joint care planning; data-sharing
Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill	In Parliament	Expected early 2026	Local authorities, enterprise agencies, community bodies	Collaborative economic planning; shared governance
Land Reform (Scotland) Bill	In Parliament	Expected 2026	Local authorities, landowners, community organisations	Joint governance on land use; community engagement
Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill	In Parliament	Expected 2026	Social work, education, health, housing services	Multi-agency care planning; integrated support for care-experienced children
Housing (Scotland) Act 2025	Passed	2025 → 2026	Local authorities, housing associations, social care teams	Homelessness prevention; tenancy sustainment; integration with social care

A full list of references used in the production of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 can be access [here](#)

Local Plans and Strategies

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

- [Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan 2026–2031](#)
- [Aberdeen City Corporate Parenting Plan 2026–2029](#)
- [Aberdeen City Council Delivery Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen City Local Policing Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen City Fire and Rescue Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen City National Improvement Framework Action Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen City Population Mental Health Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen Playing Pitch Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy](#)
- [Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-30](#)
- [North East Scotland College - Strategic Plan 2025-30](#)
- [Strategy for Active Aberdeen](#)

Economic Stability

- [Aberdeen City Council Delivery Plan](#)
- [Destination Tourism Strategy](#)
- [Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan](#)
- [NESCol - Strategic Plan 2025-30](#)
- [Regional Economic Strategy 2035](#)
- [Cultural Strategy for Aberdeen](#)
- [Regional Skills Strategy 2040](#)
- [Destination Tourism Strategy](#)
- [Scottish Enterprise Strategy](#)

Communities and Housing

- [Aberdeen City Local Housing Strategy 2025-30](#)
- [Children's Services Plan 2026-31](#)
- [Community Empowerment Strategy](#)
- [Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-30](#)
- [North Locality Plan 2026-26](#)
- [South Locality Plan 2026-26](#)
- [Central Locality Plan 2026-26](#)

Neighbourhood and Environment

- [Aberdeen City Local Development Plan](#)
- [Core Paths Plan](#)
- [Granite City Growing](#)
- [Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Aberdeen Building and Heating Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Mobility Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Routemap for the City](#)
- [City Centre Masterplan](#)
- [Community Empowerment Strategy](#)
- [Regional Transport Strategy 2040](#)
- [Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028](#)
- [Local Housing Strategy 2025-2030](#)
- [Local Transport Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Building and Heating Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Circular Waste Economy Strategy](#)
- [Net Zero Energy Supply Strategy](#)
- [Natural Environment Strategy](#)
- [Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Tree and Woodland Strategy](#)

- [North Locality Plan 2026-26](#)
- [South Locality Plan 2026-26](#)
- [Central Locality Plan 2026-26](#)

Health and Social Care

- [Strategy for Active Aberdeen](#)
- [Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen Playing Pitch Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen City Population Mental Health Strategy](#)
- [Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy](#)
- [Carers Strategy 2026-31](#)
- [Children's Services Plan 2026-31](#)
- [Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-30](#)
- [NHS Grampian's Plan for the Future 2022-2028](#)
- [Aberdeen City Local Policing Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen City Fire and Rescue Plan](#)
- [Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-2029](#)

Community Planning Aberdeen Partners



Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership



Scottish Enterprise



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland



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UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN



Skills
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